



LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes

Date: Thursday, July 16, 2020

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom Video Conference Call

Notice to the Public on remote meetings: In the interests of preventing abuse of video-conferencing, all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings:
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Commissioners Julia Forsythe (Chair), Andy Robinson (Vice Chair), Lisa Krinsky, Brooks Harrelson, Helene Newberg, Maura Albert, Susan Ryan-Vollmar

Liaisons: Jillian Harvey – DEI

Guests: Lenard Diggins- Select Board, Patrice Faulkner- Metropolitan Area Planning Council (Arlington Fair Housing Action Plan)

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m. KM assigned as minute-taker

1. Announcements
 - a. Introductions, welcome new guests.
2. Open Forum
 - a. Definition and clarification of what the Consent Agenda is.

- b. Discussion of general members, currently there are 232 members looped in through the newsletter and are connected to the group, the goal is to reach 250.
- 3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Collaboration with LGBTQ+ Cambridge Commission
 - They contacted Andy to talk about creating a Community Center
 - b. Request from ACMI for an interview
(Topic: Current events -- BLM, Inclusion, etc)
 - Susan Ryan-Vollmar would be great for it. Would someone else like to do it?
 - Will they give us questions first?
 - It's important for this community to show support
 - BH > Move to accept consent agenda; HN seconded
- 4. Pride, Covid-19, and upcoming events
 - a. Banners have been picked up
 - b. Unsure of when they will be going up and how long (JH will check)
 - Additional donations have come in and will go towards future banners
 - c. June 20 digital picnic had good attendance in spite of Zoom
 - d. Town Day 2020 canceled – there is not substitute at this time
 - e. Is there something we could do for future events?
 - Netflix party?
 - Community forums
 - Arlington Reads -- BH is on the committee to choose books, Felix Ever After
 - Earmark special dates so we can do something on social media or to host an event: Transgender Day of Remembrance, National Coming Out Day, etc
 - TDoR: connect with LexPride since we have in the past
- 5. Subcommittees
 - a. AR shared his screen to speak about what RC committee interest and explained the logistics of each committee
 - b. From the police department (Collaborations committee) we received a transgender policy from Chief Julie Flaherty for the APD. SRV thinks that we might be able to ask an expert like Sean Cahill so that he can review it and make suggestions. LK brought up the question: can we share this? We'll need to confirm with JF.
 - c. Communications committee
 - SRV would be happy to make statements, write blogs, etc.
 - Facebook: KM & SRV could post to RC's Facebook page

- Newsletter & website: KM & SRV could work on it
 - Is the RC newsletter on a schedule? AR has been doing it monthly. It is less schedule driven and more event-focused. It's created through mail-chimp.
 - KM will take ownership of RC site.
 - BH suggested that we update the site using a Wordpress theme.
- LK: social advocacy and social justice. When we respond publicly, we need to show the other commissioners.
 - JH sent the statement process to chair and vice chair and will place in the RC Google drive.

6. Membership

- a. Do we need to have a point person for each committee? HN suggested that yes, because we need to comply with public meeting law.
- b. Welcome for All – JH gave us a little info about it.
- c. Next step is to gather more info on adding point-people for each commission.

7. Liaisons and partnerships

- a. BH asked what Patrice might be interested in as a liaison
 - She has been working with JH.
 - She is observing currently
 - How incidences of housing discrimination are handled
 - Gathering qualitative and quantitative data
 - JF said that we don't get many incidents reported to us
 - How do we tell people we exist so that they know that we are there for a response?
 - LD told us that there are Neighborhood Pods so people can come together for little communities to disseminate information.

8. Strategic planning- no update

8pm: BH Move to Adjourn: HN seconded

Next meeting: August 20, 2020 6:30-8:30 pm location TBA